

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BILBAO 00121 141623Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 HA-05 SY-05 FBOE-00 A-01 CCO-00

/047 W

-----054743 141630Z /50

P 141500Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL BILBAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0701

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS BILBAO 0121

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, SP

SUBJ: FIRESTONE STRIKERS DEMONSTRATE AT CONSULATE

1. SUMMARY: CONSUL RECEIVED NOTE FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF ABOUT 500 FIRESTONE WORKERS WHO STAGED 15 MINUTE PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF CONSULATE. ONLY DAMAGE CONSISTED OF BROKEN DOOR OF NEW FIRESTONE OFFICE BEING INSTALLED TWO FLOORS ABOVE CONSULATE OFFICES. NOTE WISHES TO CONVEY TO FIRESTONE HOME OFFICE AND AMERICAN PEOPLE WORKERS' DISCONTENT WITH COMPANY FAILURE TO RAISE SALARIES SINCE JULY 1977 DESPITE 26 PERCENT INFLATION IN CY77. WORKERS AT FIRESTONE'S PLANTS IN BILBAO, BURGOS, AND TORRELAVEGA WENT ON STRIKE MAY 22 REJECTING COMPANY PLAN TO INSTALL COMPUTERIZED PLANT CONTROL SYSTEM AND PASS ON SAVINGS TO WORKERS. MANAGEMENT ESTIMATES STRIKE COULD LAST SEVERAL MONTHS MORE IF NOT RESOLVED THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY.
2. ABOUT 500 STRIKING WORKERS OF LOCAL FIRESTONE PLANT DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF CONSULATE FOR APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES AND A GROUP OF SIX ASCENDED TO THE THIRD FLOOR CONSULATE OFFICE IN ORDER TO DELIVER A NOTE EXPLAINING THEIR POSITION TO THE CONSUL. DEMONSTRATORS CARRIED PLACARD STATING 'WE DEMAND INVESTMENT NOT LOANS', CHANTED SLOGANS AGAINST THE MANAGING

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BILBAO 00121 141623Z

DIRECTOR ZUBIRIA SUCH AS 'THE BANK AND THE CIA ARE WITH ZUBIRIA' AND THEN DISSOLVED PEACEFULLY. THE ONLY VIOLENCE WAS DIRECTED AGAINST A NEW FIRESTONE HOLDING COMPANY OFFICE BEING INSTALLED ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE SAME BUILDING IN WHICH THE CONSULATE IS LOCATED. IN TRYING TO GAIN ENTRY THEY KNOCKED A LARGE HOLE IN THE DOOR.

3. FIRESTONE'S THREE PLANTS IN BILBAO, BURGOS AND TORRELAVEGA ARE IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY, WITH LOSSES ON THE ORDER OF THREE MILLION DOLLARS DURING PAST YEAR. AS EXPLAINED BY A COMPANY OFFICER, IN ATTEMPT TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY BY INSTALLING IBM COMPUTER CONTROL PLANT, COMPANY OFFERED TO PASS ON SAVINGS TO WORKERS PLUS SMALL ADDITIONAL SALARY INCREASE. WORKERS REJECTED THIS OFFER AND WENT ON STRIKE ON MAY 22. TACTICS EMPLOYED THUS FAR INCLUDE DISRUPTION OF ACTIVITIES AT BANK OF BILBAO AND BANK OF VIZCAYA (IMPORTANT STOCKHOLDERS OF FIRESTONE) AND BLOCKING OF TRAFFIC ON MAJOR HIGHWAY BETWEEN BILBAO AND SAN SEBASTIAN.

4. NOTE PRESENTED TO CONSUL STATES FIRESTONE HAS MADE NO OFFER TO INCREASE SALARIES SINCE JULY OF 1977 DESPITE A COST OF LIVING INCREASE OF 26 PERCENT IN 1977. IT EXPLAINS THAT THE NOTE IS DIRECTED TO THE CONSULATE SINCE FIRESTONE IS A U.S.FIRM AND THAT DIRECTION FROM THE HOME OFFICE IN AKRON COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT COMPANY POLICY. THE NOTE EXPRESSES THE WISH TO CONVEY TO THE HOME OFFICE AND TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN GENERAL THAT THE WORKERS WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO DEFEND THEIR JOBS AND THE BUYING POWER OF THEIR SALARIES.

5. COMPANY OFFICER STATES THAT COMPANY ACCOUNTS WERE RECEIVED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNIONS UGT, STV, AND SWC-USO. A PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS AN INFLUENTIAL RADICAL COMMUNIST WOMAN FIRED AFTER LONG STRIKE IN 1975 AND LATER REHIRED UNDER LABOR AMNESTY, WHOM THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS SYNDICATE IS UNABLE TO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BILBAO 00121 141623Z

CONTROL. COMPANY BELIEVES THAT IF NOT RESOLVED THIS WEEK, STRIKE COULD

LAST ANOTHER THREE TO FOUR MONTHS.WEST

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, WAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BILBAO00121
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780248-0852
Format: TEL
From: BILBAO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780662/aaaacbmr.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 44acbc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2364534
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRESTONE STRIKERS DEMONSTRATE AT CONSULATE
TAGS: PINS, ELAB, SP, FIRESTONE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/44acbc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014